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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: KATO, et al.
Serial No.: 09/767,834
Filed: January 24, 2001
For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING METHOD THEREFOR

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

May 29, 2001

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, and supplementing the Preliminary Amendment filed January 24, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

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MAY 31 2001 TC-3700 MAIL ROOM

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-15 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add the following new claims to the application:

1. A conveyor system for use in vacuum processing apparatus, comprising;

a cassette mount unit, provided with a cassette, for receiving plural substrates to be processed;

a conveyor loader having a first conveyor unit for conveying substrates to be processed;

a load lock chamber for receiving said substrates to be processed from said first conveyor unit;